<u>Client Communication</u>

The inter-personal relationship between the vet and the farmer is very crucial and it build the foundation for avenues of current and future sources of employment for the vet. The vet must be able to effectively communicate a plan of action to the farmer that both can understand and agree on

WHY ? - Dehorning / disbudding is the surgical removal of the horns or the prevention of horns from growing in the mature animal . The farmer should be made aware of the benefits that dehorning/disbudding will provide. These are :

- Are less likely to injure other livestock.
- Are less likely to hurt or injure themselves.
- Are easier + safer to handle.
- Cause less damage to farm infrastructure such as yards, gates and troughs.
- Require less space during transport.
- Require less space in feedlots.
- Are easier to catch in a stanchion bar and apply ear tags to.

WHEN ? – The farm should be made aware that the ideal time to have the procedure done is before 2 months of age in the cattle and before 1 month of age in the kid . Before this time the horn buds are still freely moveable and have not fused with the frontal bone. Therefore disbudding can be done which is a faster, simpler and cleaner procedure. After this point dehorning would have to be done which may create a portal of entry for bacteria especially if a hole is opened into the frontal sinus. For this reason the client should be encouraged to disbud rather than dehorn.

WHAT ? – The farmer should be informed and educated about the different methods of dehorning/disbudding and the potential adverse effects each method may bring about so that he can adjust his management strategy to suit the post op needs of the surgical patient.

HOW ? - In addition to the choice of method for disbudding / dehorning the farmer should be informed of the purpose of each drug given to the animal and its necessity . In some cases the farm may elect to chose the method of dehorning/disbudding based on his pre-existing management structure . At the end of the day the client must be happy